

THE following Subjects being such as I wish to obtain, and the method here laid down to preserve them being calculated to give as little trouble as possible to the Collector, my Friends will greatly oblige me by sending these Instructions to their Correspondents in different parts of the Globe.

ANY production of Nature or Art, or any thing curious from its Antiquity, or any thing exhibiting the different customs and manners of Foreign Nations.

ANIMALS—Skins, Horns and Limbs of Animals.

BIRDS—Nests, Eggs, Heads and Beaks of Birds.

FISHES—Heads, Jaws and Limbs of Fishes.

SNAKES, LIZARDS, TOADS, FROGS and REPTILES.

INSECTS, MOTHS and BUTTERFLIES.

SHELLS, CORALS, CORALLINES, SEA PLANTS, SEA WEEDS, SPUNGES, *Fungues, Mosses, Ambers, Gums, Brain-stones, Star-stones, Sea Hedgehogs, Star-fishes, Lobsters, Crabs,* and any curious Thing found in the Sea, or on the Shore.

Uncommon STONES, FOSSILS, MINERALS, ORES, CRYSTALS, SPARS, MARBLES, INCRUSTATIONS and PETRIFACTIONS.

WOODS, SEEDS and FRUITS.

Uncommon Coins and Medals.

DRESSES of different Countries and Parts of Drefs.

INSTRUMENTS, ARMS, VESSELS and ORNAMENTS.

MANUSCRIPTS, serving to shew the Hand Writing of the Natives in the Language of each particular Country,

When any Article is collected it will add greatly to its value to make remarks where and when found, and to note down an account of its Name, Use, Qualities, or any other particulars: It will likewise be proper to secure (where that can be done) more Specimens than one of the same kind.

Large Animals should be carefully skinned; leaving the Horns, Skull, Jaws and Feet with the Claws adhering to the Skin, and they should then be put into a vessel of Rum or other Spirits.

Large Birds should be skinned, leaving the Head and Feet, and mind to break the Skull on the inside, extract the Brain and take out the Eyes and Tongue: These must by no means be put in Spirit, as it would totally spoil their Feathers, but must be kept dry, the Skin being on the inside well moistened with the preparation hereafter mentioned to be used for small Birds.

Large Fishes should be opened in the Belly, the Entrails taken out and the Body stuf with Oakum: Small Fishes may be put in Spirits, as may Snakes, Lizards, Toads, Frogs, Reptiles, Sea Hedgehogs, Star-fishes, Lobsters, Crabs, Prawns and Shrimps.

Butterflies, Moths and all winged Insects should be pinned close down to the bottom of a flat Box prepared for the purpose.

Birds-Eggs, Shells, Ambers, Stones, Brain-stones, Star-stones, Fossils, Minerals, Ores, Crystals, Spars and Marbles, may be packed in a Box filled full of Bran or such like substance, only observing where the subject is full of small punctures, to wrap it up first in Paper, to prevent any Bran getting in, as it would not come out without a deal of difficulty.

Corals and Corallines being very tender and brittle, should be packed with great care by themselves, and the Box close filled with Bran.

Sea Hedgehogs, commonly known by the name of Sea Eggs or Button-fish, should if possible be gathered with their Prickles on, as that renders them of more value.

Small Birds may be preserving in the following manner; enlarge the Vent with a pair of Scissars sufficiently to extract the Entrails, taking great care not to foul the Feathers, then introduce a Tin Tube at the orifice, through which an Iron Scower red hot may sear the inside and dry up the Juices, open the Bill, take out the Tongue and with a sharp Instrument pierce through the roof of the Mouth to the Brain, so as

to make a free communication, take out the Eyes and put pieces of Cork or any hard substance into the sockets to keep them in their natural size; then hang your Bird up by the Feet and pour in at the Vent through a Funnel (having first closed the Bill & put a little Cotton into the Mouth to prevent the Liquid running out) a quantity of Pepper and Ginger liquified by Spirit of Wine, or any other strong Spirit; repeat this for several Days, your Bird being hung in a dry place; and when you find it sufficiently sweet, stuff its Body through the Vent with Wool or any soft substance moistened with the above Preparation, and pack it close in a Box at full length for carriage, laying it as smooth as possible to preserve the beauty of the plumage.

I must not omit this opportunity of thanking my Friends for their various Benefactions to my MUSEUM, and am

their obliged humble servant

Aikrington,

1771

near Manchester

Ashton Lever.

Leicester House 18 Feb 1780
Mr Perrin his
ADMISSION TICKET
to S^r Ashton Levers, Museum,
for one Year from the Date hereof
Thos Waring Secretary

Dear Sir.

Will you excuse a Man for writing a letter upon the Back
of his Map Bill & attribute it to a species of Madness
Nod is a necessary Companion to any one, that
would cut a Figure in collecting natural Curiosi-
ties? I congratulate you very sincerely upon the
safe arrival of your Friend Banks, for whom
tho' a stranger to me, I cannot help having a
very great Regard. Your Hells came safe to
~~me~~ & merit my best Thanks. It will give me
real Pleasure to hear that you have ^{been} hearty all
this last summer & that your Health is estab-
lished: for tho' I should be glad to shake you
by the Hand in Lancashire the next year; I
would by no means wish Bristol Waters to
be the occasion of a northern Journey -
Mr. Lever begs to join me in Compl^t & I am
with great Esteem your much obliged
& most obedient hum. serv^t

Birmingham Nov. 11th 1771. Mr. Lever

Perrin Capt

William P.

~~Wm. Rogers~~

CHC Edgars Build Dsgs

Bath

To
 William Pitt
 Esq
~~Secretary of State~~
 London

William Plisk Dennis Jr